

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 199728
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14
JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-20
NSC-05 OES-09 OMB-01 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EJBEIGEL
APPROVED BY EUR/WE:RPPAGANELLI
-----002823 081954Z /50

P 081605Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 199728

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER

1. REQUEST ANY REDRAFTING REQUIRED TO UPDATE PRESENT
NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER ON FRANCE. THIS PAPER APPEARS
IN UNCLASSIFIED BRIEFING BOOK FOR AGENCY USE IN RESPONSE TO
PUBLIC AND CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES. WOULD APPRECIATE
HAVING MISSION COMMENTS IF POSSIBLE BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

2. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF PRESENT PAPER ON FRANCE.

BEGIN TEXT.

1. ILLICIT DRUG PROBLEM.

- DRUG ABUSE HAS BECOME AN INCREASINGLY SERIOUS PROBLEM IN
FRANCE OVER THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. AS THE PROBLEM HAS
AROUSED MORE PUBLIC CONCERN IT HAS ALSO BECOME MORE
DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. TRAFFICKING HAS TENDED AWAY FROM BIG
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SHIPMENTS ALTHOUGH IMPORTANT SEIZURES OF ILLICIT DRUGS ARE
BEING MADE. THE NUMBER OF SMALL-TIME TRAFFICKERS, WHO TRA-
VEL TO AMSTERDAM FOR THEIR SUPPLIES, HAS RISEN SHARPLY.
ALL METHODS OF TRANSPORTATION ARE USED AND THE FRENCH
AUTHORITIES HAVE HAD ONLY LIMITED SUCCESS IN INTERRUPTING
THEM. THERE IS STILL A TRICKLE OF WHITE HEROIN COMING FROM

MARSEILLE, BUT THIS APPEARS TO BE OLD STOCK RATHER THAN NEW PRODUCTION.

- THE EMERGENCE OF THE DRUG ABUSE PROBLEM IN FRANCE, WHICH DATES FROM 1969, HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXPANSION OF FRENCH COOPERATION WITH THE US OVER THE PAST EIGHT YEARS, THE SEIZURE OF SIX IMPORTANT LABORATORIES AROUND MARSEILLE AND THE DISRUPTION OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN HEROIN FROM FRANCE. FRENCH ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND THE CUT-OFF OF TURKISH POPPY PRODUCTION LED TO REDUCED SUPPLIES OF HEROIN; EFFORTS CURRENTLY FOCUS ON CONTROL OF HEROIN ORIGINATING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AS WELL AS HASHISH ARRIVING FROM NORTH AFRICA.

2. DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS.

- THE FRENCH POLICE JUDICIAIRE ARE IN CHARGE OF DRUG CONTROL EFFORTS IN FRANCE. THAT AGENCY HAS MORE THAN 175 AGENTS, STATIONED PRIMARILY IN ITS PARIS HEADQUARTERS AND AT MARSEILLE AND NICE. THE FRENCH ALSO HAVE LIAISON PERSONNEL AT DEA REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS AT NEW YORK. FRANCE IS A MEMBER OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PARTICIPATES IN ITS PROGRAMS. FRENCH LEGISLATION WAS PASSED IN 1970 WHICH RESTRUCTURED PENALTY PROVISIONS AND ESTABLISHED SENTENCES UP TO 20 YEARS FOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.
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- SIGNIFICANT QUANTITIES OF HEROIN AND HASHISH AND SMALLER QUANTITIES OF COCAINE AND HASHISH OIL CONTINUE TO BE SEIZED IN FRANCE THROUGH COOPERATION OF FRENCH AND US ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES. FRENCH POLICE EFFORTS HAVE RECENTLY BEEN GREATLY INTENSIFIED TO DEAL WITH AN INCREASE IN SMALL-TIME DRUG TRAFFICKING. THE FRENCH ARE ALSO INTENSIFYING THE PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO INTERDICT ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC WITHIN EUROPE.

- FRANCE HAS RATIFIED THE PSYCHOTROPIC CONVENTION AND THE AMENDING PROTOCOL TO THE SINGLE CONVENTION. FRANCE HAS CONTRIBUTED DOLS 100,000 TO THE UNFODAC.

3. US PROGRAMS.

- COOPERATION BETWEEN FRENCH AND US AUTHORITIES GREATLY EXPANDED AFTER 1969, AND HAS BEEN ORGANIZED IN PERIODIC TRIPARTITE MEETINGS (INCLUDING CANADA) OF PRINCIPAL DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONAL COOPERATION THROUGH DEA

PERSONNEL AT PARIS, MARSEILLE, AND NICE, SERVING AS LIAISON WITH THE POLICE JUDICIAIRE. TRAINING ASSISTANCE AND CERTAIN EQUIPMENT WAS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE FRENCH, AND EXCHANGES CONTINUE REGARDING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES. IN 1975 THIS WAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE IN-COUNTRY TRAINING FOR FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICERS. IN 1971 THE US AND FRANCE SIGNED AN AGREEMENT FORMALIZING THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE RESPECTIVE ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND THIS AGREEMENT WAS RENEWED IN 1976. THE AGREEMENT AUTHORIZES DEA TO HAVE TWELVE SPECIAL AGENTS IN FRANCE.

END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, PAPERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE199728
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EJBEIGEL
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780324-0839
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780886/aaaacuow.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a3170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1802639
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS COUNTRY PAPER
TAGS: SNAR, FR
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a3170467-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014